

**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Replace the abstract originally provided on the cover sheet of the PCT application with the new abstract as follows: A new abstract numbered page 62 is enclosed for the last page of the application following the claims.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A network node structure for an optical communications network has a housing having a plurality of slots, and a plurality of cards inserted in the slots. The plurality of cards includes at least one first card having an optical input for receiving an input WDM optical signal from an optical line of the network, a first optical device for extracting at least one component optical signal at a wavelength from the input WDM optical signal and at least one optical output making available the at least one component optical signal. At least one second card is provided, distinct from the first card, having at least one socket mechanically and electrically adapted to receive one of a plurality of interchangeable electro-optical components. Each electro-optical component has an optical input adapted to receive an input optical signal at a prescribed operating wavelength, an optical-to-electrical conversion unit for converting the received optical signal into a corresponding converted electrical signal, an electrical output making available the converted electrical signal, and an electrical input adapted to receive an input electrical signal, an electrical-to-optical conversion unit for converting the received electrical signal into a corresponding optical signal at the operating wavelength, an optical output making available the converted optical signal.